Greetings all,

Our national convention was a big success. Attendees thanked me multiple times for the great time they had in St. Louis. The food at the hotel was excellent. Our hostatality room was very popular thanks to all the members who dropped by with food and drinks. The floral arrangements were lovely. Everything ran smoothly.

The Hosta Show was a lot of work, but worth it. People brought leaves from everywhere to enter. The plant exhibits and floral arrangement in the show were varied and many.

Everyone enjoyed visiting the vendor tables, both the public and attendees. Some people visited multiple times, looking for that perfect plant or bargain.

Even though we had extreme heat, it cooled down a bit for the garden tours. The President of the AHS, Don Dean, was impressed with the gardens’ presentation after a week of sudden extreme heat and drought. The other people who toured the gardens commented that they thought all of the gardens were excellent. Many commented on how nice the pre-tour gardens were also, and people were excited to see them even in the heat and humidity.

The silent auction and raffle did quite well, thanks to everyone who donated items to either one.

Everyone who attended felt welcomed and had a good time, and that’s the most important thing. So thank you to all the committee chairs, volunteers and St. Louis Hosta Society members who helped in some way. Everyone did a great job.

Our next meeting is the auction on July 17th at our usual location and time. Bring any hostas you have divided to the auction. Basal Honaker has agreed to be our auctioneer. Thanks to Basal, and to all of you who are donating to our auction. See you there.

Diana
# 2016 Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 7-9</td>
<td>Midwest Region Hosta Society Convention</td>
<td>Champaign, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>Members Plant Auction</td>
<td>1:00 PM, Creve Coeur Government Center</td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td>Meeting with Speaker TBA</td>
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<td>October 16</td>
<td>Meeting with Speaker ‘The Gourd Sisters’</td>
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<td>November TBA</td>
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<td>December 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>January, 2017</td>
<td>Winter Conference Meeting</td>
<td>Naperville, IL</td>
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Next Newsletter will be mailed about September 1

**Welcome New Member!**

Paula Reecht of St. Louis, MO

We hope that you join us at the Member Auction in July. This is the perfect time for us to get to know each other.
**JULY COMING EVENT**

**St. Louis Hosta Society Member Auction**

**July 17, 1:00 PM.**

This year’s auctioneer, Basil Honaker with help from Phyllis Weidman and Pam Wolkowitz, is ready to kick off this popular event. The annual auction is one of two events that fund our society’s yearly activities such as the popular holiday party, make the publication of this newsletter possible and bring nationally known speakers to St. Louis.

Tomorrow morning before the sun gets blistering hot and the humidity soars, take a walk in your garden to check if any plant could be divided. Take an eye or two, pot and label it and bring it with you on July 17th. Then survey your piece of paradise to see if there are barren spots that are badly in need of a little TLC. All these plants have been donated by your fellow members, plants that they have grown and obviously flourish in the St. Louis area.

So, bring your wish list and of course your checkbook. Be ready to outbid your fellow hostaholics. That plant that you’ve been dying to have your whole life may be there waiting for your bid.

But most of all socialize, get to know our new members, share your recent convention experiences and join your fellow society members for an afternoon of fun.

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**Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award:** Don Dean

This is the highest award offered by The American Hosta Society in recognition of outstanding achievement in hosta hybridizing. It is awarded to a member of the Society who has truly advanced the genus Hosta through hybridization. Some of you met Don, current AHS President, when he spoke to our society in September 2011. You also may have at least one of his fabulous introductions in your hosta beds.

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**Eunice Fisher Distinguished Merit Hosta Award:** H. 'Pure Intentions'

This award is for the hosta that the recipient of the Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Merit Award selects from among his/her own hosta hybrids as the recipient’s favorite. This hosta, registered in 2011, is named for Don’s wife Gail.
Did you hear?

Congratulations are in order for members Ralph and Pat Merola. They are winners in the Creve Coeur 8th Biennial Beautification Contest in the Best Water Feature category. A glance at the pictures below leaves no doubt as to why they were so honored.

On the City of Creve Coeur’s web site, the selection committee wrote this description of the Merola’s garden: “This backyard transformation is true perfection. A cascading water feature, complete with numerous waterfalls is Zen-like. Each large, flat stone is precisely placed so that water rolls over it, falling peacefully onto the next stone, and downward to a small pond. Hostas, large and small, add to the tranquil, shade-filled setting.”

Whether you wish to curl up with a book in a hammock or sit on a rock dipping your toes in cool water, the Merola’s garden is the place to be. The lavish use of hostas unite the various parts of their yard, soften the rock edges of the stream and add to the tranquility of the hammock area. What a beautiful oasis! Congratulations Ralph and Pat!

For more pictures of Ralph’s and Pat’s beautiful yard, visit The City of Creve Coeur’s web site, www.creve-coeur.org and click on the 2016 Beautification Award Winners tab.

2016 Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award: Larry Tucker

This award, established in 1982 in honor of one of the founding members and first president of The American Hosta Society, is the highest award offered by AHS. It is presented to a member of the Society in recognition of having given outstanding service to The American Hosta Society, the development of the genus Hosta or both. Some of you may remember meeting Larry when he was a speaker at our October 2012 meeting. Others of you may have read his publication, The Hosta Adventure: A Growers Guide which used to be given to each new member of the society.

2016 Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Hosta: H. ‘Elvis Lives’

This award is for a hosta of distinguished merit and is selected by the recipient of the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award. As Larry was a long-time resident of Memphis TN his was an appropriate choice.
2016 Convention Tour Gardens

Bruce and Chick Buehrig
Small hostas nestle amongst the rocks that line their pathways.

Bruce & Chick Buehrig
Conifer collection

Janelle and Jim Criscione
A view of the plantings around their inviting, shady back patio.

Janelle and Jim Criscione
Whimsical rabbit, one of many concrete sculptures, nestled in a hosta bed

Karen and Greg Frimel
Contrasting and harmonizing color and texture are Karen’s hallmark.

Karen & Greg Frimel
Flower arrangement made of drill bits

Basil and Sandy Honaker
Large clumps of *H. ‘Frances Williams’* border a backyard path.

Basil & Sandy Honaker
A bubbling fountain anchors a patio bed

Martha and Paul Lafata
The front hosta bed with its Japanese maple muffles noise of a busy street.
Martha and Paul Lafata
Just a few years ago this hillside was a tangle of railroad ties, rocks and vines. Look what hard work can do!

Terry & Steve Metzler
A splash of color and giant mushrooms highlight their hilltop.

Terry and Steve Metzler
Wouldn’t it be cozy living in Terry’s potting shed? A frog, painted in coordinating colors, crawls up the front.

Diana and Craig Plahn
A border of hostas lies at the base of a retaining wall studded with sedum.

Diana and Craig Plahn
A trio of “cats” snuggle in a trough.

Dave and Joan Poos
Beautiful Wolf Eye Dogwood

Dave and Joan Poos
Hostas and more hostas fill beds and line their grassy paths.

Phyllis & Jim Weidman
Despite the ravages of hail the garden was still lovely.

Phyllis and Jim Weidman
Hostas ‘Honeybee’, ‘Phyllis’ and ‘Foxfire Palm Sunday’

Pam and Chester Wolkowitz
Open their gates to a piece of paradise! Inside the deer fence, follow the paths around beds of hostas and companion plants, Japanese maples and conifers, a beautiful pond with water lilies, and splashes of color everywhere.

Their garden pole says it all:

Love Laugh Garden
One of the highlights of a National or Regional Hosta Convention is the Hosta Show. Attendees from all parts of the country selected their finest lives, soaked them in water several days (perhaps in their bathtubs), transported them to St. Louis in buckets, and then prepared each for judging.

Preparation first requires cleaning the leaf without destroying any of its color, texture or shape. Equally important is determining the correct Division, Section and Class for the entry. A panel of judges examines each entry which might be a cut leaf, a container, a design or an educational exhibit. Entries include seedlings and sports as well as known cultivars.

Five SLHS members, Elaine Fix, Diana and Craig Plahn, Ted Piekutowski and Mike Schmitt, entered and all were awarded ribbons. Well done!

It takes a village to stage a successful Hosta Show. Co-chairs Phyllis and Jim Weidman would like to thank the following SLHS members for their time and help in making this year’s event outstanding: David Birenbaum, Toni Boschert, Greg and Sheila Brown, Mario Carlos, Wendy DeCaro, Warren Duff, Karen Frey, Joyce Fry, Ralph Merola, Andrea Michalak, Christine Morgan, Marian Murphy, Carolyn Myers and JoAnn Rawson. Next time you see one of them, ask about their experiences.
Pre-Convention Tour Gardens

Our Society wishes to thank these five people for volunteering to open their lovely gardens for the enjoyment of attendees arriving early for the convention. These members spent a great bit of time preparing their gardens for the all-day open house that occurred on Wednesday. A good number of hosta lovers took advantage of this opportunity to see additional fine St. Louis gardens.

Elaine and Tom Fix

The Fixes reside in the country side near Winfield MO about an hour and a half drive from St. Louis. They reported that many of the attendees took the opportunity to visit their lovely garden.

Thanks to Convention Chairs – Give yourselves a round of applause!

Convention Chairman: Bruce and Chick Buehrig
Hotel Liaison: Diana Plahn
Registrar: Jolly Ann Whitener
Business: Dave Poos
Tour Gardens: Martha Lafata and Pam Wolkowitz
Hosta Show and Gift Plant: Phyllis and Jim Weidman
Venders: Ted Piekutowski
Hostatality: Diana and Craig Plahn
Publicity and Convention Booklet: Ginny Mueller
Tour Bus: Karen Frey
Audio Visual Support and Web site: Melissa Byrd
Raffle and Silent Auction: Janelle Criscione
Hotel Decorations: Rick and Joan Clarkson
Booklet advertising: Bruce Buehrig, Janelle Criscione, Martha Lafata
Art Design-Donations: Karen Frimel
Treasurer: Kim Piekutowski

A special thanks to Karen Frimel for the beautiful quilt (which was won by a quilter) and the beautiful photographs and to Ted Piekutowski for the diorama which he made and a large grouping of hostas which he donated.

A special thanks to all the unsung heroes: garden helpers, hostatality donors, registration workers, bus captains, raffle ticket sellers, auction plant runners, silent auction item donors, booklet designers, meeting minute takers. The list goes on and on. We needed each and every one of you!
St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

Contact: Kim Piekutowski
1269 Brenthaven Lane
Florissant, MO 63031
kimberlypiekutowski@gmail.com

Dues:
- $7 per year, $18 for three years
  - Family or Individual

Meetings held at 1:00 PM at the Creve Coeur Government Center, 300 N. New Ballas, 63141 (between Ladue Road and Olive), unless otherwise noted.

Visit our Web site: www.stlouishosta.org

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Joan Poos — Newsletter Editor
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AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

Members receive three issues per year of The Hosta Journal, which includes color photographs of hostas, reports on national conventions, scientific information concerning current research pertaining to hostas, and advertisements of interest to hosta families.

Membership checks should be made out to “AHS,” and mailed to:

Sandie Markland, AHS Membership Secretary
P O Box 7539
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

Dues for one year are $30 for an individual and $34 for a family. For more information, visit the AHS website: http://www.americanhostasociety.org/